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SENATE MEMORIAL 51

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CARL MONROE TURNER
AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HIS WIFE, PATRICIA "P.J." TURNER,
AND HIS FAMILY.

WHEREAS, Carl Monroe Turner was born and raised in East
Tupelo, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Carl proudly served his country in the Pacific
theater during World War II as both a mechanical trainer on
aircraft engines and as an aerial engineer; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Carl obtained his law degree from
"Ole Miss", where he was active in creating a third political
party to ensure the inclusion of Harry S. Truman on the 1948
presidential ballot in that state; and

WHEREAS, after that election, Carl moved to New Mexico,
where he started his own land title company in Socorro; and

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1 WHEREAS, Carl was elected to the New Mexico house of
2 representatives, where he served for one term; and

3 WHEREAS, on April 1, 1960, Carl was selected to be the
4 first executive manager of the newly formed New Mexico rural
5 electrical cooperative association, a position that he was to
6 hold for nearly thirty years; and

7 WHEREAS, Carl was a true champion of rural
8 electrification, fighting for co-ops at the state capitol and
9 in Washington, D.C., throughout his career; and

10 WHEREAS, while serving in that capacity, he established
11 the rural electrical cooperative scholarship program, a program
12 that has provided almost five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in
13 scholarship assistance to more than five thousand sons and
14 daughters of co-op members; and

15 WHEREAS, he is known for creating the first legislative
16 almanac in the late 1960s, a publication that began as part of
17 the January issue of *Enchantment Magazine*, the trade magazine
18 for rural electric cooperatives, and that grew into a popular
19 and highly regarded directory matching names to faces in the
20 New Mexico legislature; and

21 WHEREAS, the national rural electrical cooperative
22 association honored Carl in 2002 by awarding him the
23 prestigious Clyde T. Ellis award, which recognizes recipients
24 for contributions clearly above and beyond the call of duty in
25 furthering the principles and progress of rural

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1 electrification; and

2 WHEREAS, Carl was pivotal in the preservation and
3 promotion of the Cumbres and Toltec scenic railroad by
4 developing and garnering support for an interstate compact
5 between Colorado and New Mexico to fund the operation of this
6 historic, narrow-gauge, steam-powered railroad; and

7 WHEREAS, his interest in that railroad never waned, and he
8 served as a Cumbres and Toltec scenic railroad commissioner for
9 extended periods through the years, and in recognition of his
10 contributions, a parlor car was named in his honor in 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, Carl was a scholar who had a curiosity about many
12 diverse topics and who was accomplished in many areas of the
13 arts, sciences and other human interests; and

14 WHEREAS, Carl was a book lover and collector; a
15 genealogist able to trace his roots back to 1623; a carver and
16 a chopper of wood; an extraordinary storyteller; and a grower
17 and harvester of horseradish; and

18 WHEREAS, Carl died on August 23, 2008 at the age of
19 eighty-seven years, after a year-long struggle with cancer,
20 leaving behind his wife, Patricia "P.J." Turner, his children,
21 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many other relatives
22 and friends;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that official appreciation be shown for the life
25 and accomplishments of Carl Monroe Turner and that genuine

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1 condolences be expressed to his wife, Patricia "P.J." Turner,
2 and family; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to P.J. Turner and family.

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